(b) if so, the estimate of Government regarding growth rate of industrial production;

(c) whether Government had fixed the target to enhance the growth rate for the current year; and

(d) if so, the target fixed in this regard togetherwith norms to fix this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in their Annual Report released on 23.08.1999 have stated that the industrial production should increase at the rate of about 7.0 per cent, going by the indication of industrial recovery in the first three months.

(b) Based on the past trends, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) have estimated that GDP for mining, manufacturing and electricity during 1999-2000 is expected to show growth rates of 0.7%, 7.2% and 7.6% respectively the combined weighted average is expected to be 6.5%

(c) and (d) The Government have not fixed the target for the industrial growth rate for the current year.

Millennium Round of Trade Negotiations of WTO

1069. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to face the 'millennium' round of trade negotiations of the WTO; and

(b) whether Government have constituted the negotiating team taking into consideration the previous experience at URUGUAY ROUND AND GATT?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government's approach to the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, popularly known as the ""millennium round" held in Seattle, USA, during 30th November—3rd December, 1999 was evolved on the basis of consultations with the major stakeholders, including industry, trade experts, civil society, national level political parties and trade unions. la depth studies by Rasearch institutions were commissioned to give back-up support to our approach. Diplomatic initiatives were also undertaken to obtain the support of likeminded countries. Numerous proposals outlining our concerns were circulated in the General Council of WTO and other multilateral fora to garner support for our position. These were

some of the important steps taken by Government for preparation for the Seattle Ministerial Conference.

(b) Government had authorised the delegation headed by Commerce and Industry Minister to participate in the Third Ministerial Conference at Seattle. However, as no consensus-based conclusion could be reached on most of the issues before the Ministerial Conference, the work of the Conference was suspended. Necessary steps would be taken by the Government to constitute a suitable negotiating team at the appropriate time taking into consideration national interest, past experience and all other relevant factors.

Dumping by MNCs

1070. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several MNCs of foreign countries are dumping their products in India which is adversely affecting the indigenous companies/industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to put some restrictions on such imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) List of cases as on 29.2.2000 wherein the Designated Authority appointed under Customs Tariff Act and Rules made thereunder has recommended anti-dumping duties, definitive or provisional, or, where investigations have been initiated and are pending for recommendation are given in Annexure. (See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 38)

(c) and (d) Protection to domestic industry is available through tariff mechanism as all imports are subject to applicable duties of Customs. Domestic industry can also seek remedy against exessive imports through Safeguard Directorate mechanism as per the relevant rules. However, it will not be possible to give protection to domestic industry through a regime of Quantitative Restrictions.